



**SAK**  
*At work with you*

**10<sup>th</sup> Permanent Conference of European Capitals'  
Trade Unions Organizations 16, 17 and 18 of  
September 2010  
Athens**

**"Occupational Health and Safety and the role on  
the European Capitals' Trade Unions"**

**Questionnaire**

**1. What are the OHS conditions in your capital region. Give a brief description.**

Finland as a whole number of accidents has remained alarmingly at the same level for over 10 years. International comparison, Finnish companies are among the last.

**2. Problems with the implementation of OHS legislation.**

In Finland we have the same problem as in other Nordic countries - especially in relation to immigrant workers, who mainly are employed in the building and construction sector and in the restaurant and hotel industry. The knowledge of legislation is quite poor among the employees and the employer takes full advantage of it.

**3. Inspectorate on OHS and efficiency problems.**

The system of the Finnish regional state administration was reorganized in the beginning of 2010. As a part of the Reform Project for Regional Administration (ALKU), all state provincial offices, employment and economic centres, regional environmental centres, environmental permit agencies, road districts and occupational health and safety districts were phased out and their functions and

tasks were reorganized and streamlined into two new regional state administrative bodies: the Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI) and the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY). The new administrative structure will also form a backdrop for future changes in regional state administration.

The Reform Project for Regional State Administration was launched in the summer of 2007 to make the roles, duties, steering and regional division of all regional state administrative authorities clearer. The reform enhances the citizen and customer orientation of regional administration as well as increases efficiency and productivity in its functions. The reform also enhances the role of the regional councils in coordinating and harmonizing regional development activities. But the work is now still in the beginning. Our right-wing government has also cut down the resources of OHS.

#### **4. Accidents at workplace and professional diseases.**

In 2008 there were 37 deadly accidents at workplaces in Finland – 32 of them were men and 5 women. The transportation and construction sectors had most of these with 8 accidents both. The number of total reported accidents at workplaces in Finland was in 2008 55.471.

#### **5. Sectoral approach of OHS. Which sectors are more exposed in your capital region.**

The metal and machines sector is the sector most exposed to accidents in workplaces reported accidents in Finland in 2008. Sector number two is deconstruction of buildings and sector number three road transport.

#### **6. Workers most exposed to poor OHS conditions.**

Construction sector. The food industry has a lot of work-related illnesses. The situation is the worst case of accidents and occupational health in small enterprises, which Finnish companies have more than 90%. Also snippet of workers, temporary workers and part-time employment in occupational safety and health issues are worse off than the employed, the permanent. For example, occupational health care varies according to the employment relationship.

#### **7. How the economic crisis affects OHS.**

Employees to participate in fewer health and safety training (a bit too busy at work and staff and also employers' Saving the reason). Occupational health services has been weakened and even large companies have outsourced their services (only a few companies are no longer their own occupational health care). State productivity through the program will save all state government operations, and this also means a reduction in appropriations for health and safety inspection, which can have severe

consequences, as already a bit of the number of checks is thus forced to cut back.

**8. Initiatives and actions of your organization on OHS issues.**

SAK has released their own health and safety guidelines. SAK's experts are actively involved in two-and tripartite cooperation. Close cooperation in occupational safety issues will help to understand the needs of the field. Similarly, SAK's a specialist is more involved in the Commission's working group and committees at the EU level.

**9. Perspectives of co-operation of the European Capitals' Trade Unions on OHS, networking, common activities etc.**

Joint campaign on behalf of high-quality jobs . We take better account of human resources and needs (age, functional ability, family and work coordination, the basics of occupational safety and health condition).